



Public Meeting of the Howard County Commission on Disability Issues
Howard Building, Columbia/Ellicott Rooms 1st Floor
3430 Courthouse Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043

Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 23, 2018
Commission Meeting: 6:30 to 8:30 PM

Present: Riffat Ashai
Heidi Burghardt
Cynthia Coburn
Nicole Czarnecki
Martin Jones
Andrea Kolp
Leslie Kornreich
Bridget McCarthy
Diane Mikulis
Marian Vessels
Karen Wood

Absent (Excused): Elliott Finkelstein
Arthur Gold
Doug Lea
Chelsea Stanton

Staff: Erica Lewis
Terry Zeigler

Interpreters: Brenda Kelly Frey
Becky Frey

Guest: Bobby Harris
Richard Jeffries
Brad Tanner
Bill McMahon
Mark Stromdahl
Kim Pruim

I. New Business

A. Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions

- Meeting called to order 6:30 p.m.

B. Dialogue regarding Training and Support Used to Inform Personnel about the Rights of Individuals who are Blind or Deaf and Who May be Accompanied by Service Animals

6:31

1. Sheriff William McMahon, Howard County Sheriff's Office

- Issue raised over concern of public places allowing service animals. Specific area Courthouses/rooms.
- Sheriff McMahon reported that there has been no issues or refusal of service animals allowed in courtrooms.
- Training for first responders: Sheriff McMahon stated training is provided on a certified police level and entry level.
- Karen shared an experience when she was out of state regarding the denied entry of her service animal in a public place.
- Sheriff McMahon thanked Karen for sharing her story and recommended that this be a starting point for sharing information. He emphasized to let HC Police Department know if a situation/incident should happen of denied public access with service animal.
- Discussion followed about the current mandatory entry level training for recruits, in-service training in the spring and fall and supplemental training.

2. Brad Tanner, Director, Community Outreach and Media Affairs, HC Dept. of Fire and Rescue Services (F&R)

- There was discussion regarding training for F&R personnel regarding service animals. Brad reported that there have been emergency situations when service animals have accompanied their owners in an ambulance.
- Karen volunteered to work with F&R on training.
- Marian wanted to know the protocol when a patient has a service animal and goes to the hospital who perhaps may need immediate surgery. Response was that service animals are never left alone – will be released to family member or held by Animal Control division of the Police Department.
- Heidi mentioned MVA and Fire Departments using "CAD" (computer aided dispatch) flagging system. This system alerts when residence has a member with a disability. Brad mentioned this is a great system. However, residents do not always report updated information to the flagging system when they move or when their situation changes; relying on outdated information can lead to hazard.
- Handout – Howard County Police Department Community Outreach Division – 911 Flagging

3. Major Luther Johnson, Deputy Chief, HC Police Department

- Major Johnson did a history search for complaints and refusal of service animals in public places, and found no records of complaints.
- Major Johnson extended an invitation to Karen to share information and be a training resource.

Handout – Howard County Police Department Community Outreach Division pamphlet.

4. Mark Stromdahl, Chief, Bureau of Facilities, HC Dept. of Public Works

- Facilities will revise security guards' training plan to implement guidelines regarding people with disabilities with service animals on Howard County property.
5. Richard Jeffries, Assistant Principal, Maryland School for the Deaf (MSD)
- Reported that they are working with Howard County first responders on a plan for responding to active shooter situations in school setting at MSD.

C. Approval of Minutes for February 26, 2018 Meeting

- Minutes approved with one amendment - #4. Police training on service animals – Karen Wood – should read when dealing with all of those with disabilities who require service animals.
- Motion for Second amendment - passed unanimously - #6 Council Resolution 23-1018 – Bullet 3 should be anecdotal. Bullet 12 delete.

D. 2018 Awards Program and Annual Report

Erica inquired into whether the Commission plans on having the 2018 Awards Program and the Commission's Annual Report with the amount of work that will have to be done by the Commission for completion of Council Resolution 23-2018, which includes holding a public hearing.

- Commission decided to hold the 2018 Awards Program. This decision was not voted on.
- Motion proposed to complete the report mandated by CR 23-2018 in place of the 2018 Annual Report. Passed unanimously.

II. Old Business

A. Update on 12/4/2017 recommendation to re-name the Commission.

- Ande sent letter of recommendation to County Executive on 4/23/18.

B. Howard County Council Resolution 23-2018 (CR 23-2018)

- Bill passed as amended on 4/5/18.
- A workgroup was formed and met on 4/11/18.
- Ande proposed question to Commission – How to implement within the scope of the legislation and within the expertise and time limitations of the Commissioners. Members suggested utilizing a portion of their upcoming meetings, for soliciting input from mandated stakeholders: June 25th, August 27th, September 25th, and September 26th.
- Diane asked Kim Prium about the source of information for the statistics: “4.4% of the Howard County population, under 65 years of age, has a disability,” as noted on the CR 23-2018 document.

III. Announcements

No announcements.

IV. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned 8:00 p.m.

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